

THE NEW COURT HOUSE.

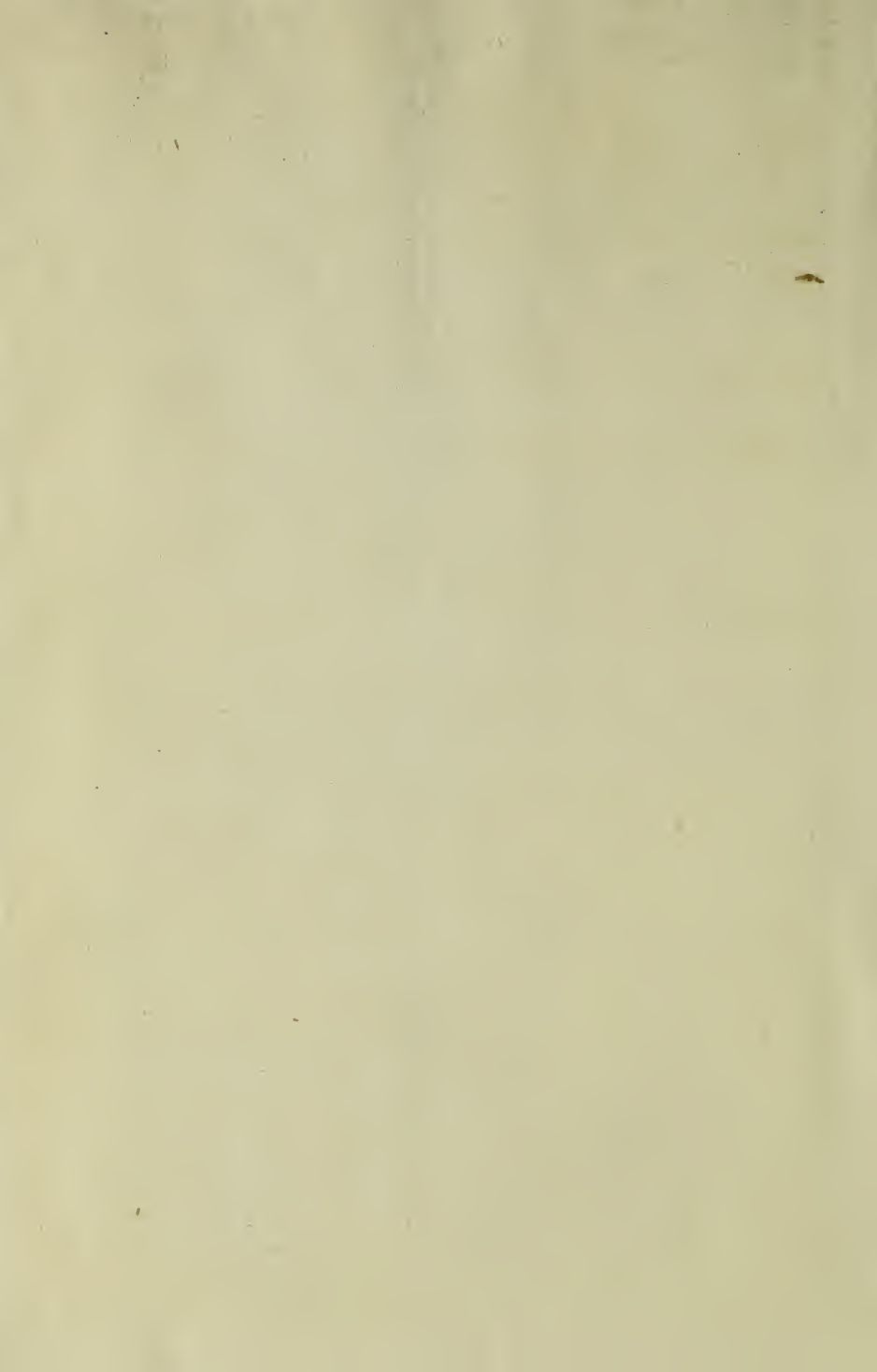
LAYING THE CORNER STONE LAST
THURSDAY.

A Large Crowd and Imposing Ceremonies.

Address of Gen. Lew. Wallace.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND.,

THURSDAY, MAY 6 1875.



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An Interesting History of the County.

The imposing ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new Court House took place last Thursday, with all the dignity and impressiveness that could be given to it by the presence of the Grand Lodge of Master Masons of the State, under whose ritual the ceremonies were performed. The day before the stone was to be laid had been rainy and gloomy, and many on retiring on Wednesday night presaged an unfavorable state of the weather. But Thursday dawned bright and pleasant, dissipating all doubt and gloom. During the entire forenoon people were arriving from the country in one continuous stream, and by 11 o'clock the streets and sidewalks on the south and west sides of the square were almost one solid mass of human forms. The first train to arrive was on the L., C. & S. W. road, carrying the Masonic orders of Frankfort, Colfax and Darlington, with visiting friends. This delegation filled five coaches and numbered about 600. The next delegation was from Lafayette, and consisted of Lafayette Commandery No. 30, Knight Templars, Lafayette Lodge No. 123, F. A. M., Perry No. 3, and Tippecanoe No. 492, filling with visiting friends six coaches. The next arrivals were from Greencastle and places south on the L., N. A. & C. road, and made an addition of at least 200 more. Each of the visiting delegations brought a band of music. Three coaches filled with visitors arrived on the L., C. & S. W. road from the south at noon.

The procession was formed at 1 o'clock and moved south on Washington street in the following order :

College Cadets, under command of Colonel Carrington, Co. "A" Capt. J. P. Roth, Co. "B" Capt. McCarer, Co. "C" Capt. Todd, Co. "D" Capt. Haynes, in all 100 men.

City Council in carriages, Fire Companies, Wagon with the corner stone, Court House employes, Emerald Beneficial Association, Good Templars of various lodges, Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows of various lodges, Knight Templars of Lafayette and Crawfordsville, F. and A. Masons of various lodges, Grand Lodge of F. and A. Masons with the orator of the day, Gen. Lew. Wallace.

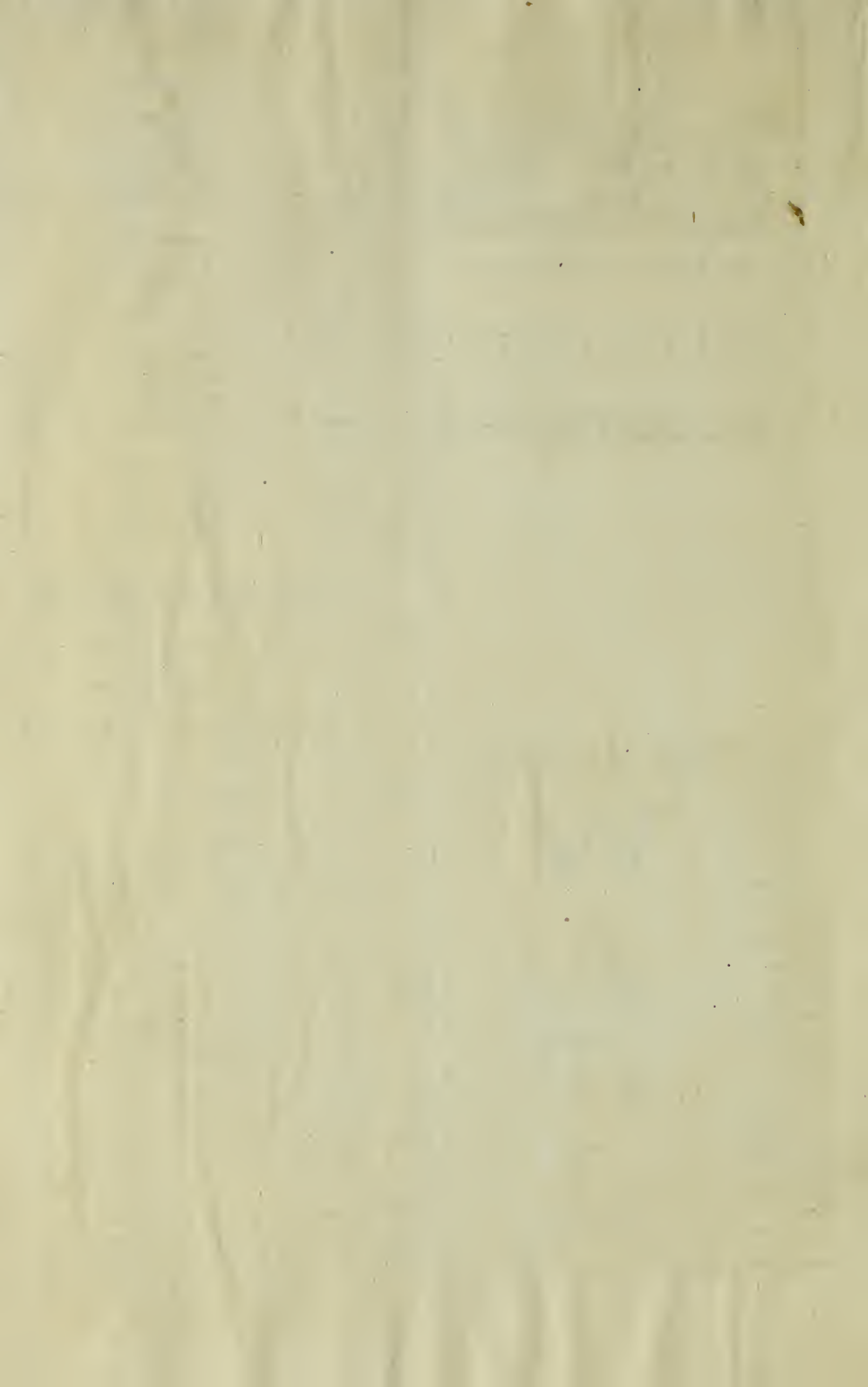
The procession was but little short of a mile long, and moved according to programme, and was witnessed by an immense crowd along the line of march. There were distributed along the line bands at appropriate distances. Arriving at the Court House at about half past 2 the ceremonies were somewhat interfered with by a slight accident happening to the wagon on which was the stone, throwing it off but causing no damage.

THE STONE

Is a plain rectangular block, 4½ feet long, 2 feet and 8 inches wide and 14 inches thick. It is of Berea sandstone, the same material as the balance of the stone used in the building, brought from Berea, near Cleveland, Ohio. On its outer face, which looks to the west, is this inscription

	JAMES LEE.
	JAMES M'INTIRE.
COMMISSIONERS:	JAMES HALL.
	SAMUEL M. HUTTON.

In a small copper box, sunk into the stone on its inner side, were deposited the following articles:



Ferrotypes of William Miller, who erected the first log cabin in Crawfordsville in 1823. In that cabin was held the first Court of Montgomery county; the officers were Jacob Call Judge, and James Scott and Wm. Burbridge Associate Judges; and in this cabin was held the first election in Montgomery county.

History of Elston Bank.

Blank county order; File marks of Auditor; Seal of Board of Commissioners.

History of Insurance Companies, by Chas. W. Wright.

Roll of Niagara Fire Company.

Autograph and seal of County Recorder.

List of officers and members of DeBayard Lodge No 39, Knights of Pythias.

List of officers of the City of Crawfordsville.

List of officers and members of Tahoe No 384, and Talbott Lodge No 88, Good Templars.

List of officers and members of Montgomery Lodge No 38, Odd Fellows.

List of officers and members of Bethsaida Encampment No 223.

List of officers and members of Montgomery Branch No 6, Emerald Beneficial Association.

Catalogue of Wabash College.

Wabash Magazine.

Poem: The Perfect, by Miss Mary H. Krout.

Two copies of The Raven.

The Crawfordsville Review.

Crawfordsville Saturday Evening Journal.

The City Item.

Price List of Crawfordsville Coffin Co, and seal of the same.

Photograph of Court House, D. T. Ridge.

Coin of Henry VIII, from J. H. Watson.

U S Coin of 1861, and card of A P Reynolds.

Statement of the Rate of Taxation of each year since the organization of the county.

Copy of the Specifications of the Court House

Copy of The Masonic Advocate.

List of County Officers and various seals of same.

List of officers of Grand Lodge, F.A.M.

List of officers of Montgomery Lodge No 50, F.A.M.

Programme of Procession.

List of officers of Union Degree Temple No 4, I.O.G.T.

Lists of—

Officers of Crawfordsville Chapter No 40.

Officers of Crawfordsville Council No 34.

R. S. Masters.

Crawfordsville Commandery No 25.

Knights Templars.

Officers and members Gamma Delta Club.

Officers and teachers of the Public Schools.

Copy of rules and regulations of the Public Schools.

Key of old Court House.

Chain of 13 American coins and photograph of the donor, Edward S. Wilhite.

Photograph of Maj. Ambrose Whitlock, one of the first proprietors of the town.

Daguerreotype of A. S. Hughes.

Cards of various citizens and family records.

The imposing ceremony under the auspices of the officers of the Grand Lodge, was then commenced, and consisted of prayer by the Grand Chaplain, Thos. H. Lynch, the squaring and leveling and the pouring on of corn, oil and wine.

GEN. WALLACE'S ADDRESS.

At the conclusion of these ceremonies Gen. Manson introduced Gen. Lew. Wallace as the orator of the day, who proceeded to speak as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: My position is one of great novelty. Literally I find myself speaking for two audiences at the same time. Some of you may not understand the remark, and, as it involves a point of interest, those who do will permit me to explain.

If the prayers we have just heard be answered in the spirit of their entreaty, and this house abides a center of prosperous growth, in fifty years the public records will overflow the vaults, roomy as they are in design, and before a century the same necessities that struck down the old edifice will come upon this one, and with the same result. Changing tastes, and the pride which always comes with riches, are sure to reinforce the necessities. But let us not wrangle over the time of the event. Enough that a day will come when this stone, laid with prayer, and music and procession, and every suitable civic circumstance, will be raised from its place, its seal broken, and its contents exposed. Then the other audience to which I have alluded will assemble, and what I say be said again; and therein lies the novelty of my position, and the difficulty of my task. In other words, my friends, you are making a gift to posterity—a gift, let me say, by which you need not fear to be judged; for it is of solid foundations, fair proportions, beautiful lines, good arrangement, and not stinted in cost or material. This assurance reminds me that shame can not come to you except through what I may say. So I will endeavor to be never so careful; keeping in mind the audience that is to be not less than the one now before me.

The very young people present find it very difficult to imagine the region around about Crawfordsville as it was in 1821. To say that it was a wilderness is not enough; in the far east the word means the desert, sandy, rocky, herbless except of tufts of camel grass; that is its scriptural sense also; here, however, it means the wild prairie, and the woods dense and primeval. Still it is the best term at hand to convey an idea of our region in that year. The surveyor had gone through it running his lines, meridian and longitudinal, and establishing sectional corners. Trappers were familiar with Sugar creek, then larger than now, and stocked with muskrat and beaver, and with fish. The hunter had followed his wounded deer through the hollows and over the hills; as yet, however, there was not a settler in the proper meaning of that word; there was not a hearthstone planted; no fenced fields, no roads; not a sign of civilization,

though one journeyed from morn to dewy eve. If the way led over the prairie, on the right hand and the left a waste, in the Summer rich with flowers, in the Winter fields of snow swept by merciless winds; if the trail were through the woods, the thicket was about like a wall, and the wanderer, his soul thrilling with a sense of awe, caught the blue of the sky in briefest patches through the trees above him—all was shade and solitude, as became the inheritance of savages.

Now, this had been the condition of the region for countless ages—I don't know but from the time the stars sang together—but the description is confined to the year 1821 for the reason that it was the year of the advent of the first settler of Montgomery county. More particularly, in February, 1821, the Indians, looking from their coverts, were startled by the sight and sound of travelers. The party whom they beheld consisted of a white man, his wife and five children. He had with him three horses, and some cattle and hogs. The horses carried all his household goods and farming implements. He led the way on foot, rifle in hand. His name was William Offield.

My friends, to my mind the saddest incident of life is how soon we are forgotten. Fifty-two years, it is true, have passed since the man came blazing his way through that wilderness; and it is also true that fifty-two years are a long time to us individually, but, as respects their origin and history, ought they to be so to communities? What if by a word, a wave of the hand, I could bring the man and stand him here where you could all see him looking just as he did the day he broke for us the hush of the pathless woods? What if the woman, his wife, could come and be seen as when she toiled on after him? Would you not like to talk with them and learn their story? Where they were born? Whence they came? It is not enough for us to know, by the simple circumstance that she was following him with her little ones into depths where words from kindred can never come, and visitation was impossible, that she had the qualities to make her adorable, even if she were not beautiful. No, that is not enough; we would like to know what she looked like; if she had blue eyes or black, dark hair or light, how she talked and demeaned herself: the style of her frock, and its material, and who made it, and how she bore the hardships of the way, and if she were not afraid to go on. Yet you will scarcely believe me when I

tell you that all these are lost. Anxious to do my duty to you, my friends, and still more to the other audience of which I spoke, I have inquired diligently about these two persons. Their contemporaries are nearly all passed over to "the majority"; a few, however, survive, but such of them as I have talked to can not tell me so much as her Christian name. Still stranger is the forgetfulness that has fallen upon him; she stayed at home; he went abroad among the men who shortly came after him, was elected to office, was a man of importance, if not a leader; yet the account of his personal appearance and life is almost as meager as that of his wife. If this is a regret with us to-day, what will it be a hundred years hence, when, in the midst of their plenty and riches, surpassing all our dreams, and obeying the commonest impulse of gratitude, the generation of that time look back to find who were the founders of their great prosperity? How will they accuse us, that we have even refused to let tradition do its work, and tell of this man and woman, the very first of the county.

I can not help stopping here and begging you not to let this go on. Make records, and keep them. Nothing is more simple and inexpensive. You need only organize a historical society for each township and have reports of occurrences as they happen. Be assured that one day the historian will seek your books, and from the mass of trivialities separate all that is interesting and important.

Let me give you now what I could find of the history of William Offield. He was born in one of the Carolinas, and moved here from Tennessee. At the time of his coming he was in the prime of life. He was low in stature, broad and strong. His eyes and hair were dark; his faced bronzed like an Indian's. He was fond of hunting, probably that passion brought him here, and also took him away. Very frequently he was met alone in the woods with gun and dog. There is reason to believe him educated beyond the average of men at that time in the West. His signature as County Commissioner occurs in the records and it is smooth and round, even graceful, the hand plainly of an experienced clerk. In 1826, while yet Commissioner, he suddenly disappeared, and went no one knows where. By that time settlements were become frequent. The lands were being rapidly taken up, and Crawfordsville was founded and beginning to thrive. He may have felt the room becoming narrow and moved further West.

Altogether he must have been of the class of Boone; honest, simple minded, brave, hardy, loving freedom better than society, and the solemn woods better than town. Down near the mouth of the little creek south of Crawfordsville, which yet bears his name, there was, in 1821, an Indian village, and that may have drawn him. Any how, on the side of a hill opposite the village he built his cabin, cleared a space for a corn field and began life in Montgomery county.

A few weeks after his arrival he was followed by William Miller and his family, the first inhabitants of Crawfordsville. Miller—Uncle Billy, as we called him—spent the remainder of his days here, dying only last year. We all knew him, and for the benefit of my other audience it is well to say he was one of the handsomest men any where to be met; round faced, rosy of complexion, with small black eyes, and hair as white as wool; in nature sociable, sympathetic, jolly, insomuch that at eighty-five he had the exuberance of a youth.

The race began by these men was that of a swift runner. Two months after Offield's advent, on the 21st of December, 1822, the Legislature of the State, itself but five years old, passed an act fixing the boundaries of Montgomery county, and on the 1st of March the following year William Offield, James Blevins and John McCullough were chosen the first Commissioners of the county. They were prompt men, not given to foolishness. They took the oath required and held their first meeting the afternoon of the day of their election. They chose John Vawter Clerk *pro tem.*, making him in fact the first Clerk of the county. That first meeting was held in the open air. Their next session was held at the house of William Miller. So the exact date of the corporate birth of Montgomery county was the 1st of March, 1823. The territory embraced in the county as it was originally established took in on the north what are now the counties of Cass, Carroll, Clinton and Tippecanoe. Eastward it reached to the line of Marion. Southward it went as far as Parke, and Westward it reached to the Wabash. The original plat of the city of LaFayette, situated like a city on the Rhine, and with a manufacturing interest which of itself will secure her a brilliant future, is recorded here in Crawfordsville. Among the proceedings of a meeting of our Board of Trustees in January, 1825, is an order granting a license to William Digby to keep a ferry on the east bank of the Wabash—the

ferry which was the beginning of LaFayette. Then there was but one township, called Montgomery, which was divided into three, called Wayne, Scott and Union, in May, 1824.

The fifty-two years sped since Offield became a squatter on the bank of the creek which will bear his name, I hope,

forever, have wrought wondrous changes in the face of the land. If some of us find it difficult to imagine the country as it was in 1821, how would he be amazed if he could return and see it now! The hand of cultivation has been everywhere. The ax and hoe, the knife and torch have done their work well; where before only a rabbit could go, a man may ride a horse; the king trees of the woods are down, and but few scions tell where their thrones were planted; the low places in which the night used to hide, laughing at the sun, have been conquered by the ditch and the plow, and *presto!* the corn field. Broad roads, good, but not good as they will one day be, cover the haunted trail of the Indian. Bridges span the fords. The creeks grind as they run. On the prairie the lowing of the herds welcomes the morn and signals the night. Railroads stretch their lines of iron through ten of the twelve townships. Fifteen handsome villages—centralize the trade of their localities—Ladoga, Parkersburg, Waveland, Brown's Valley, Alamo, Yountsville, Whitesville, Waynetown, Pleasant Hill, Beckville, Shannondale, Darlington, Linden, New Richmond and New Ross. Churches everywhere tell that God is worshiped in the faith of the fathers, and school houses that the future is perpetually in mind. The Far West, a thing of vastness and mystery to the Eastern mind—the Far West is here no longer, it has lifted its pavilions of green, and gone—who can say where? To tell it all in the practical language of the day, Montgomery county has 6,000 voters, 30,000 inhabitants and taxables of the assessed aggregate of \$17,500,000, and the seers who go up into the high places, asking questions of the future, may not detect a cloud in the sky or a spot on the horizon.

But I am not yet done with the past. The day my other audience assembles and breaks open this stone and box which hold the speech I am making, and take it out, they will have a good time. They will read the paragraphs you have just heard, and thinking of their growth and the pitch they will have attained, laugh at my glow and exultation. And

as I have gone back through the dusty records to the beginning, seeking history and facts to illustrate the first day and generation, they will come, through the same channels and for the same purpose, to us. Let us therefore make the comparison of the old and the present a little more complete; by so doing we will help the good people of the future to a laugh and ourselves to some knowledge, if not wisdom.

Among the items which struck me as likely to interest both my audiences was an order of the Board of Commissioners establishing the price of town lots in Crawfordsville in May, 1823. Now you know it is a poor lot forty by one hundred and sixty out in the extreme suburbs that will not bring one hundred and fifty dollars, while here in the center ground is worth two hundred dollars a foot. In 1828 it was different. Then it was called *land*, and there was plenty of it. William P. Ramey was the only real estate agent, and his agency was an office and part of the patronage of the Board. The Commissioners seemed to have an idea that the town would shortly become a metropolis, so they ordered their agent to sell no lot for less than ten dollars. The order, bear in mind, took in all the lots now within the fire limits which were then unfenced woods. Some of us would like to buy at ten dollars a foot now.

In 1823 a *lister* was equivalent to what we now call *assessor*, who is a very important officer and paid quite handsomely—say seven hundred dollars a year. But what do you think the Board paid William P. Ramey for salary as *lister* of the county in 1823? Just three dollars!

Yet another. The first grand and petit juries for the county were ordered at a meeting of the Commissioners June 28, 1823. Both the juries, curiously enough, had not the number composing them required by law. The excuse offered in the order is, there were not enough tax payers in the county to fill the requirement. Yet more—a juror now gets \$2.50 per day; in 1823 he received seventy-five cents, and went away happy. The session lasted one day, and resulted in one indictment for assault and battery. Five terms afterward the accused was tried, found guilty, and fined one cent. Fighting in old times was not the crime it is now—neither was it so profitable to Justices and Constables.

James Stitt was the first Treasurer of the county, by appointment of the Commissioners. He was appointed March 1, 1823, and in November of the same year he filed his report of revenues received

for the eight months he had been in office. How much do you think it was? Well—\$250, and that was from the sale of town lots in Crawfordsville. The wilderness, of course, yielded nothing.

Last year the total taxation receipts from the county climbed up to \$200,000. And mighty was the grumbling; yet I believe if the alternative were presented us to go back to the situation as it was in 1823 or pay, we would all pay promptly, and like good little men.

There was still another matter which struck me as worthy of note.

You know there is much dispute going on as to whether the country has progressed in morals. The orators who deny point us to the daily papers, and tell us to read the morning report of crimes.

After all said upon the subject, probably the very best gage by which to measure the comparative morals of different periods in a community organized like ours, is the docket of the courts.

Taking this last for the trial, the believers in progress may be of cheer. The dockets of the Circuit Court running from 1824 through a period of ten years, show a per cent. of such causes as slan-

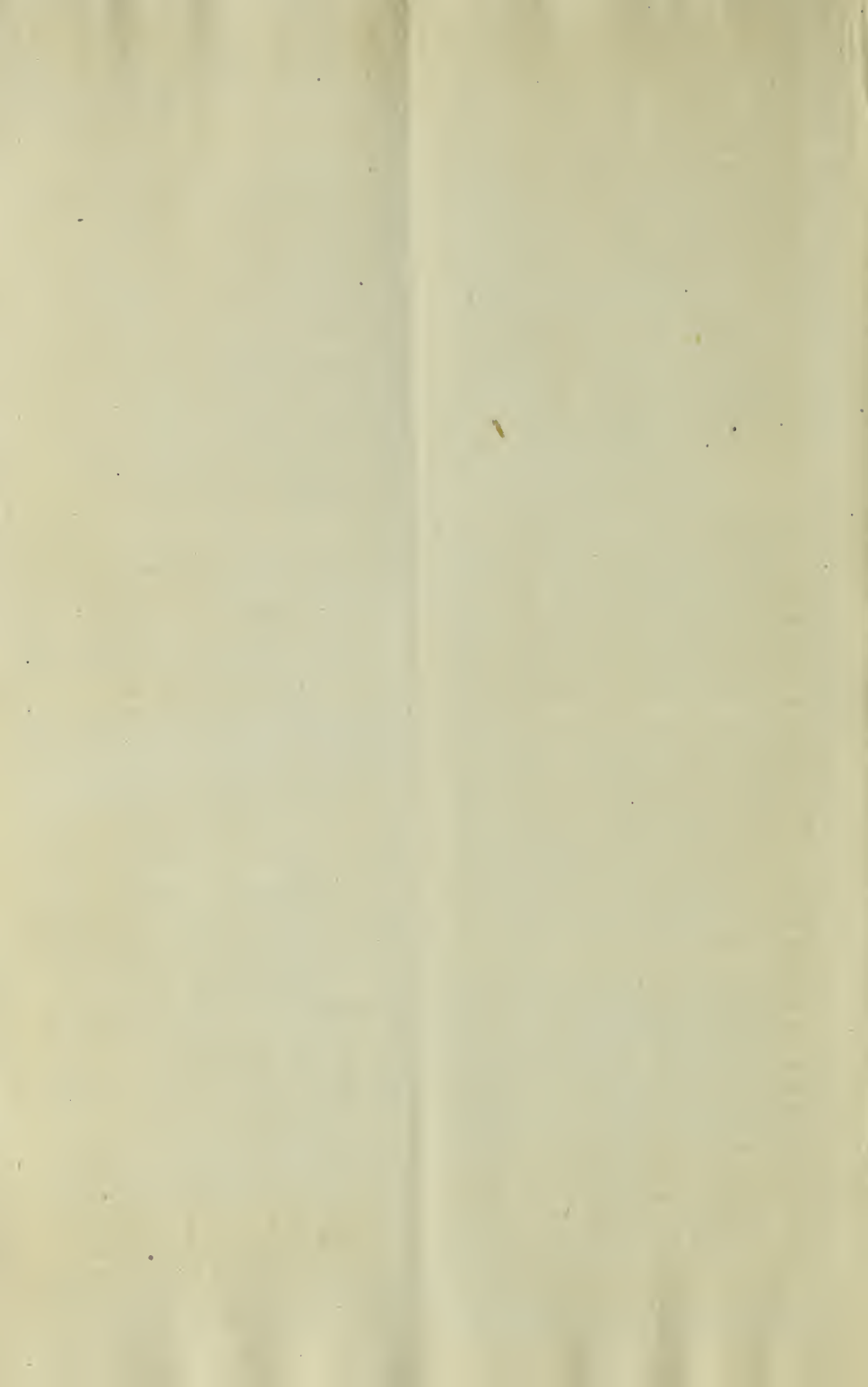
der, libel, divorce, and malicious prosecution greater even according to the population of that time than appears on the docket of the same court now in session.

Turning from the civil to the criminal side, there is the same argument. According to population, there were in the old time more indictments and prosecutions for affrays, assaults, gambling, riots, horse racing, and petty misdemeanors than now; while the higher offenses termed felonies were at least proportionately numerous.

But the observation which made the greatest impression upon my mind, as a result of the investigation I have been giving the records, was the change which public opinion has undergone touching certain customs. The change is indicated in the regulation, abatement or abolition of the customs now. Take the use of liquor for example. In 1824, the Board of Commissioners, by authority, did all the legislation upon the subject. I will give, in its exact words, the first temperance law in force in Montgomery county:

Ordered by the Board that the following rates be allowed to tavern keepers the present year, 1824:

Wine per bottle.....	\$1.25
Brandy per half pint.....	50
Gin per half pint.....	25
Whisky " ".....	12 1/2
Victualing per meal.....	25
Oats per gallon.....	12 1/2
Corn " ".....	12 1/2
Horse at hay per night.....	25
Lodging per night.....	12 1/2



By this law, as you will see, no tax was assessed; neither was a license required; and it applied to tavern keepers alone. We are therefore warranted in two inferences: first, tavern keepers were what we now call saloon keepers, and there was a bar to every tavern; next, selling liquor in that day was not more wicked or immoral than selling oats for a horse or victualing a lodger. In fact, instead of being in restraint of drinking, the regulation was merely a tariff of prices for the protection of the drinks.

This order, you will observe, was made in February, 1824. At the January term, 1821, however, the Commissioners took a forward step, and passed a license law. For a license—that is the term used—to sell spirituous liquors in Crawfordsville \$10 was required. For a license to sell anywhere else in the county the tax was \$5.

I will not detain you with a recital of the battles which have been fought over the question since that day; the ruin, river like, runs on now as then; yet in the scrap of history just given there is a lesson to reformers who still believe that we can stay its flow by legislation. Exactly fifty years have passed since the enactment in this county of the first license law, and to-day we are precisely where we began, except that instead of \$10 for a license, the saloon keeper pays \$100. While this is true, let not any one say there is no change in public opinion on the subject. Liquor selling is not what it used to be in respectability; while to drink is disreputable, and drunkenness has become a crime.

Addressing myself to the old residents I have here a list of those who have been officers of Montgomery county, together with their respective terms of office. For the most part they did their duty well; their days were profitable to us; they helped make us what we are; and common gratitude makes it a duty to read their names to you, and tabulate them that they may be one day read by the other audience whom I am trying to keep in mind. The names appear in the order of terms down to the present:

CLERKS.

John Wilson, Feb. 1823 to Sept. 1837.
 James W. Lynn, Sept. 1837 to Sept. 1851.
 Andrew P. Lynn, Sept. 1851 to Nov. 1855.
 William C. Vance, Nov. 1855 to Nov. 1863.
 William K. Wallace, Nov. 1863 to Nov. 1871.
 Isaac M. Vance, Nov. 1871 to Nov. 1875.

SHERIFFS.

Samuel D. Maxwell, appointed, May 1823 to Nov. 1825.
 David Vance, Nov. 1823 to Nov. 1827.
 Foster Field, Oct. 1827 to 1829.
 David Vance, Oct 1829 to 1833.
 Ambrose Harland, Oct 1833 to 1837.
 David Vance, Oct 1837 to Aug 1841.
 William N. Gott, Aug 1841 to Aug 1845.

Joseph Allen, Aug 1845 to Aug 1847.
 William P Ramey, Aug 1847 to Aug 1851.
 Benjamin Misner, Aug 1851 to Aug 1853.
 William H. Schooler, Aug 1853 to Aug 1857.
 William K Wallace, Aug 1857 to Aug 1859.
 George W Hall, Aug 1859 to Aug 1863.
 Isaac Davis, Aug 1863 to Aug 1865.
 John N McConnell, Aug 1865 to Aug 1869.
 Hugh B Sidener, Aug 1869 to Aug 1873.
 Isaac M Kelsey, Aug 1873 to Aug 1875.

TREASURERS.

David Vance, Sept 1841 to Sept 1855.
 John R. Coons, Sept 1855 to Sept 1857.
 John Lee, Sept 1857 to Sept 1859.
 William H Schooler, Sept 1859 to Sept 1863.
 Robert F Beck, Sept 1863 to Sept 1867.
 Robert H Myrick, Sept 1867 to Sept 1869.
 Warren Davis, Sept 1869 to Sept 1873.
 William P Herron, Sept 1873 to Sept 1875.

AUDITORS.

John B Austin, Sept 1841 to Nov 1855.
 James Gilkey, Nov 1855 to Nov 1859.
 David T Ridge, Nov 1859 to Nov 1863.
 Isaac M Vance, Nov 1863 to Nov 1871.
 James H Watson, Nov 1871 to Nov 1875.

RECORDERS.

George Miller.
 James Heaton.
 George W Alexander.
 Hugh J Webster.
 T N Myers.

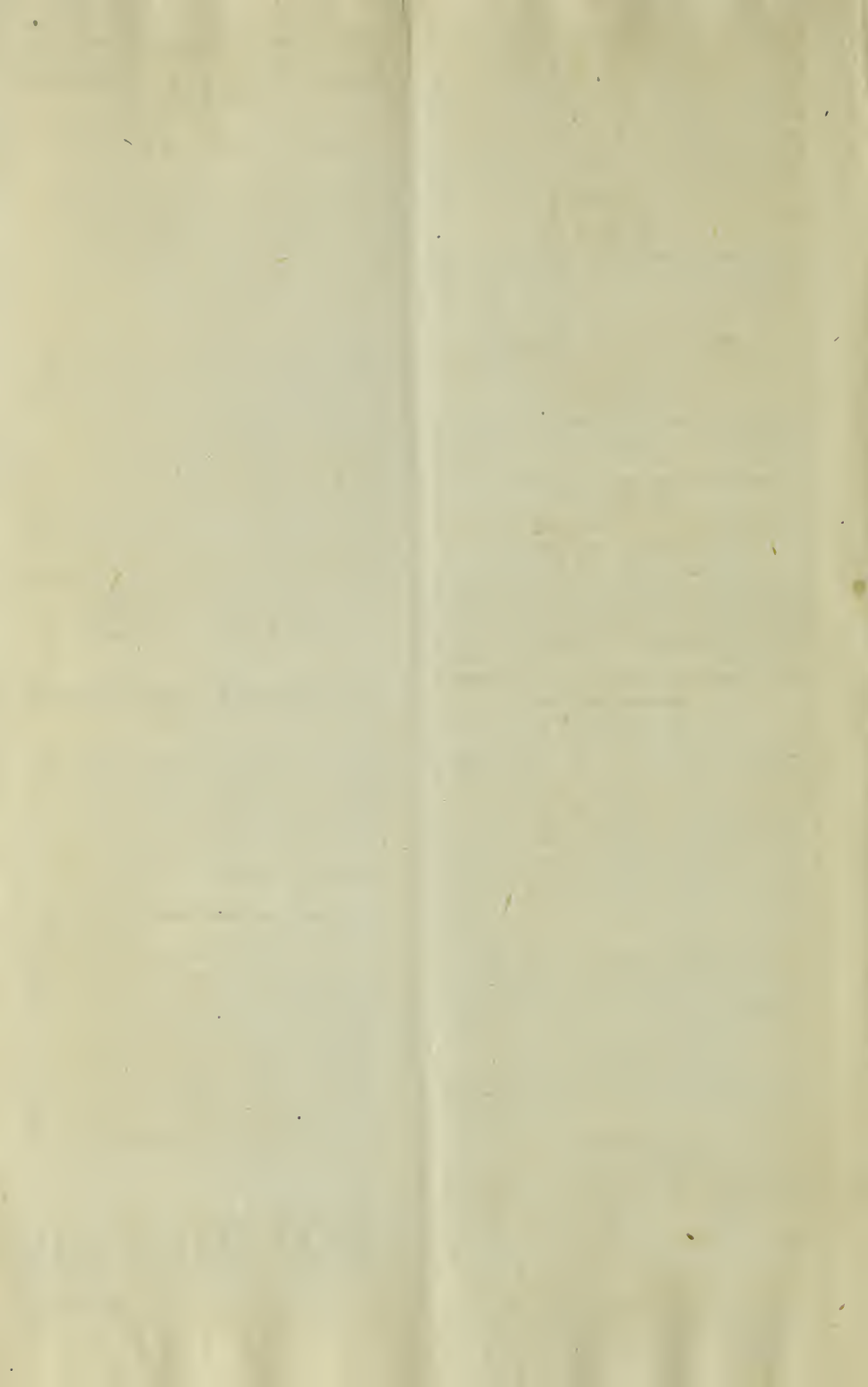
Famous men these in Montgomery county! I may be excused for selecting a few of them who were especially objects of respect and love. Such was John Wilson, venerated on account of his integrity of character. Such was David Vance, without doubt the most popular man ever in this county; inasmuch that the love he inspired lived after him, and was transferred to his children, William C. and Isaac M. Such was James W. Lynn, who modernized the forms of entries in the Order Book of our courts, and who may be counted the last of the old school of our county officers.

But, my friends, I do not wish to weary you by a too great extension of remarks. Let me turn to another branch of the subject as suggested by the occasion.

Turning, in the first place, to my neighbors, citizens of Crawfordsville, how many of you know that, when finished, this will be the third Court House regularly contracted and built for the county?

The first term of the Montgomery Circuit Court was held in Crawfordsville, Thursday, May 29, 1823, not quite two months after the county was organized. William Miller's house was used for the session. Afterwards the Court

convened at the residence of Maj. Henry Ristine, also a famous man in the early annals. Private houses continued to serve the purpose until after the 9th of August, 1824, a day of the occurrence of an event as important and interesting to our city as this is now. It fact, it was an event precisely like this, except in



pomp of circumstance, and it came about in this manner.

At a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners, June 28, 1823, it was ordered that written proposals be received on the second Monday in August for the building of a Court House in Crawfordsville on lot No. 113.

You see the fathers understood their business, for they set about it systematically; they also knew what they wanted, as the specifications they prepared show. To be sure, they were not as elaborate as those for the present building, yet they were so precise that an ordinary pensman, after reading, could give the plans of the interior, and a picture of the front elevation. That you may understand the building perfectly, and that my next audience may know what the fathers thought a commodious temple for the uses of the blindfolded goddess in their day, I will give the specifications exactly as they were drawn, and yet appear of record. The said court house, they say—

“To be built of good hewed logs; to face at least 12 inches; to be 26 feet long and 20 wide; two stories high; the lower story to be 9 feet from the floor to the joists; the upper to be 7; the roof to be joint shingles, made of poplar timber; each floor to be laid with good seasoned poplar plank, to be one inch long and three fourths thick, and 7 inches wide; the lower floor to be square jointed, the second to be tongued and grooved, the third floor to be laid loose, but to lap one inch on each side; the first and second floor to be well nailed down with suitable flooring nails; the house to have 13 good joists in each story, the joists to be 3 inches by 9, to be neatly sawed; the under side of the second floor to be dressed together with the joists; the lower room to have 2 doors and 4 windows; the doors to be good batten doors, and are to be hung with butts, and are to have locks such as are on the doors of the land office; the four lower windows to have 20 lights in each 8x10; to have shutters to open each way, or in the middle, and to be fastened with bolts; the upper story to have a plank partition across 6 feet from the end of the house; the lower room then to be subdivided by a partition starting at the middle of the house and extending to the end of the house, which partition is to divide the large room of the second story into two rooms of equal size, each to have a good door with latches, and to be hung with butts. There is to be three windows in the upper story of the house, which windows are to have 12 lights in each to be 8x10, and are to have shutters and to be finished in like manner to the lower windows. There is likewise to be a good and convenient stairway to ascend from the first to the second story. Each corner of the house is to be raised 12 inches from the ground and to be set on stone. The house is to be chinked and pointed with good lime and sand. All the work to be done in a neat and workmanlike manner. The undertaker to furnish all the materials; one-third will be advanced by the undertaker giving bond and security for the faithful performance of his contract. The building to be completed by the 20th May next.”

On the 11th of August, 1823, it was ordered by the Board that the proposals handed in by Eliakam Ashton be received. Eliakam bid \$295, and entered in-

to bond for the performance of his contract, James Stitt being his security. On the 9th of August, 1824, the house was formally received from him.

My friends, you smile at the structure described; you look across the street to lot No. 113—Gregg's store rooms cover the site now—and fancy you see its homely log face, its batten doors, its windows each with twenty panes of glass eight by ten; then your eyes turn this way to look at the dimensions of this house and measure the height of the tower we will build—undoubtedly it will be taller and more graceful than the mud and stick chimney which formed the upper garnishment of the first house—all this you will do by way of comparison. The pride is excusable; but can you promise yourselves that a purer justice will be administered here? Or that on the part of the bar there will be higher abilities, or a more perfect sense of the honor and dignity of the profession. These are desiderata more indispensable than a fine house; with them, we could hold sessions in the groves, which, we are told, were the first temples; without them, a building on all sides outshining the golden front that Herod built would be a whited sepulcher.

With your leave, my friends, I will now take up the second Court House of the county; stopping first to suggest, in the most respectful manner, that there are good photographs of it extant, and that the present Commissioners get one while they can. Hung on the walls of the Court Room, together with a sepia or ink picture of Eliakam Ashton's masterpiece, it would be an appropriate ornament, and one day a historical curiosity. My other audience would no doubt esteem them both. We are all familiar with the second building, visitors scarcely less than residents. It was not handsome. The reader a hundred years hence will know exactly what it was architecturally when I describe it as a two story brick quadrangle, topped off with a cupola of the style of two pine boxes, one set on top of the other. Yet, to do justice, it was a brave old building, and bore a charmed life. For about forty years the lightning tilted against its brown faces, and the wind heaved at it. Still it endured. Several times fire got a good start on its interior. Nobody ran to put out the flames; somehow it would not burn. But the last day came, and the walls, taken down brick by brick, now serve ignobly as part of a coffin factory.

Who will say the old house was not a useful property, aside from the purpose for which it was built? For what a variety of uses it served in its days! Think of the polls that have been opened at its northwest window; the conventions that came in and went out of its south door! How the ancient auditorium has rung with the cheers of excited factions! What partisan debates the two great pillars of this room have witnessed! Once it was a lodging house for a horde of railroad hands run in to vote, and for a week they crowded the floor, like pigs in a sty. Judge Lynch once called his myrmidons there, and left it to take to his tar and feathers. It has been the scene of inquests by Coroners and of post mortem examinations by doctors. On the other hand, its walls have been hung with garlands for the festival and countless times echoed to the music of minstrels. Lecturers and preachers, congregations too poor to own churches, and despised sects and professors of new and unpopular isms always found there a pulpit and freedom of speech, if not vast audiences. And thither the *godless* gambler has stolen hard upon the dismissal of the Sunday school. In and about it the recruiting drums of two great wars have roared like the sea. Indeed, my friends, the time I have given myself for speech on this occasion would be entirely taken with the story of the uses to which the old house has been put, if I were to attempt to tell them all. So, with your leave, I will return to sober narrative.

It was a good thing wisely done by our Commissioners to rear this new structure upon the exact site of the old one; for in that way the past judicial history of our county derives a certain connection with what is to come of the same kind, and the ground will grow more and more sacred with the coming of years. Let me now, for ourselves, but more particularly for my other audience, pick up that portion of our history and bring it down to this date. Probably the most satisfactory mode of doing that is to present a table of the Judges of our courts, giving briefly a sketch of those who occupied the bench of the Circuit Court but are now dead.

THE JUDGES OF THE CIRCUIT COURT.

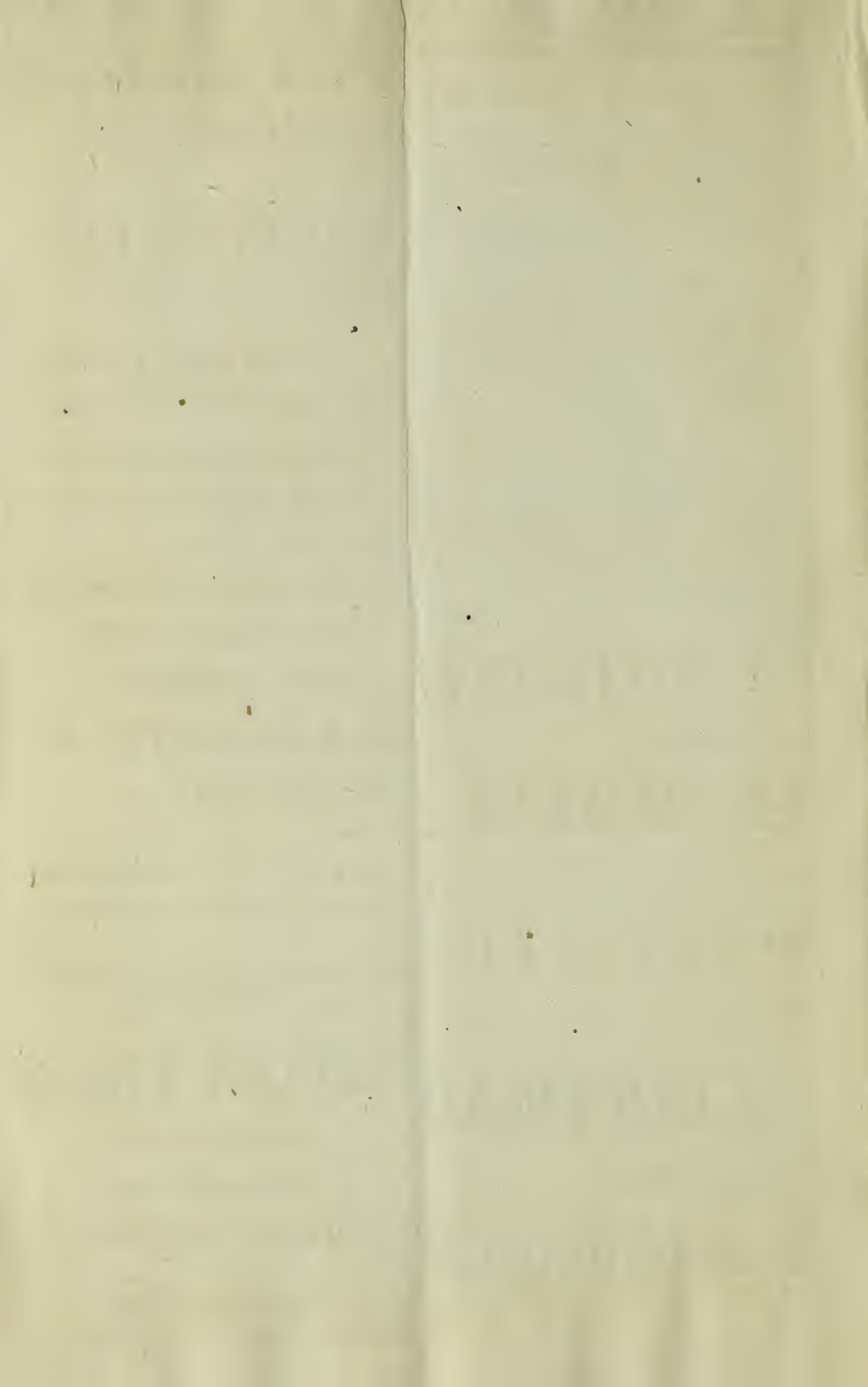
The first court held in Montgomery county, as you have been told, was called Thursday, May 29, 1823. I doubt if the present bar know the name of the Judge who opened the session. Frankly speaking, I did not until this address devolved upon me, and investigation became a

duty. Some steps should be taken to rescue our successors from a like ignorance.

Jacob Call was the first Judge of the Montgomery Circuit Court. He was born in Kentucky. Served as a private soldier in the war of 1812. Moved to Indiana while it was a territory. Lived at Vincennes. Was a lawyer of learning and ability. Appointed Judge of the First Judicial Circuit by Governor Hendricks. Held the first term of the Montgomery Circuit Court at Crawfordsville in 1823 or 1824. While Judge he was elected to Congress. Died during his first Congressional term. He was what is called a self-made man; that is to say, he had no advantages in the outset of his career, but arose to distinction by force of native ability.

John R. Porter succeeded Judge Call. He was born and raised in Berkshire county, Massachusetts. Read law with Judge Chas. Dewey, of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, and uncle of Supreme Judge Chas. Dewey, of Indiana. Came to Indiana in 1820. Settled at Paoli, Orange county. Moved to Vermillion county, near Eugene. Was appointed Judge in 1824. Held the Judgeship until 1838, or about twelve years. It is said of him that he was not an advocate, but a lawyer of solid attainments. Unlike his predecessor, he was a college graduate. He served five years of Judge Call's unexpired term, and then one full term of seven years, and would have been continued if he had not declined re-election. His administration was purer than some of his personal habits, which were tainted with the vice of the period in which he lived. It is reported that when indicted for gambling, upon return of the indictment into open court, he suspended all other business, left the bench to the Associate Judges, appeared at the bar, was duly arraigned, plead guilty, returned to the bench and fined himself, with the utmost gravity, then resumed business.

Isaac Naylor followed Judge Porter. He was a Virginian, born in 1792; brought to Kentucky, and, when seven or eight years old, to Charleston, Clark county, Indiana; read law with Supreme Judge Scott; served as a soldier in 1811; practiced law in Charleston until the Spring of 1833, when he moved to Crawfordsville, was first a partner of Thomas J. Evans, and then associated himself much more congenially with Henry S. Lane; was elected Circuit Judge by the Legislature in 1838; served seven years; was re-elected; held second term of six years. Was then elected by the people Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and continued such for six years.



He died full of honors in June, 1873. He was thoroughly imbued with the principles of the system of pleading yet found in Chitty. In the early time his contemporaries called him familiarly "Old S. D."—"Special Demurrer."

William P. Bryant succeeded Judge Naylor. He was born in Garrard county, Kentucky; read law with Judge Robinson, Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of that State; came to Parke county in 1827; served first as Prosecuting Attorney, and in 1852 was elected Circuit Judge, in which capacity he served a full term of six years. Off the bench he was all geniality; on the bench no Roman exceeded him in severity or genuine dignity. No one ever questioned his ability. He died in 1861.

John M. Cowan took the bench after Judge Bryant, and held it for twelve years. The Judge is yet with us, though retired from the practice. He was born in Montgomery county.

Thomas F. Davidson came next. He too was born in Montgomery county. By legislative re-adjustment of the Judicial Circuits of the State in 1873, he was transferred from the Montgomery Circuit Court. It is hardly saying enough of him to remark, that in administrative ability and legal aptitude he rivals, though a youth, the best of his predecessors.

Samuel C. Willson followed Judge Davidson by appointment of Gov. Thos. A. Hendricks. He served but a few weeks, scarcely long enough to demonstrate his qualities as Judge. His reputation as a lawyer made his success on the bench an assurance.

Albert D. Thomas succeeded Judge Willson. He is a native of Warren county, and a graduate of Wabash College. His career is all before him, and full of promise.

The Circuit Courts of the State, in an early period, had a peculiar feature known as Associate Judges, two in number, who, in session, occupied the bench with the Judge proper. The purpose of the addenda is not now and never was known. The best theory I can advance upon the subject is, that it was an easy way of helping respectable citizens to a popular title. The office is now, I am glad to say, abolished.

The Associate Judges of our county were James Stitt, William Burbridge, Ambrose Ketcham, Thomas Glenn and James Riley.

Besides the Circuit Court there was another of limited jurisdiction called the Probate Court, which was eventually succeeded by the Common Pleas Court.

Robert Taylor, a plain citizen, but a man of good common sense and spotless character, filled the Probate Judgeship of Montgomery county from 1823 till the abolition of the office.

The Common Pleas Judges of the county were Lorenzo Dougherty, Isaac Naylor and Judge Ristine.

THE BAR.

There remains now, my friends, but one subject to notice—the lawyers who have practiced at the bar of our county. They are very numerous—too much so to be individually named. But as they can not be disassociated from the judicial history of the county I have had a list of them prepared, and made it an appendix to my address, with a view to deposit in the corner stone of the new house.

I have not time, unhappily, to treat this part of my subject as it deserves. Permit me, however, to make one or two points.

Of late days it has become fashionable in certain quarters to deride lawyers. The jealousy which prompts the detraction will defeat itself. A little reflection teaches that habits of thought, practice of forms, use of phrases, and study of wrongs and their remedies fit lawyers pre-eminently for certain trusts; amongst them law making. To find out what will be, if the profession holds up to its past standard, let us enlarge the list I have here.

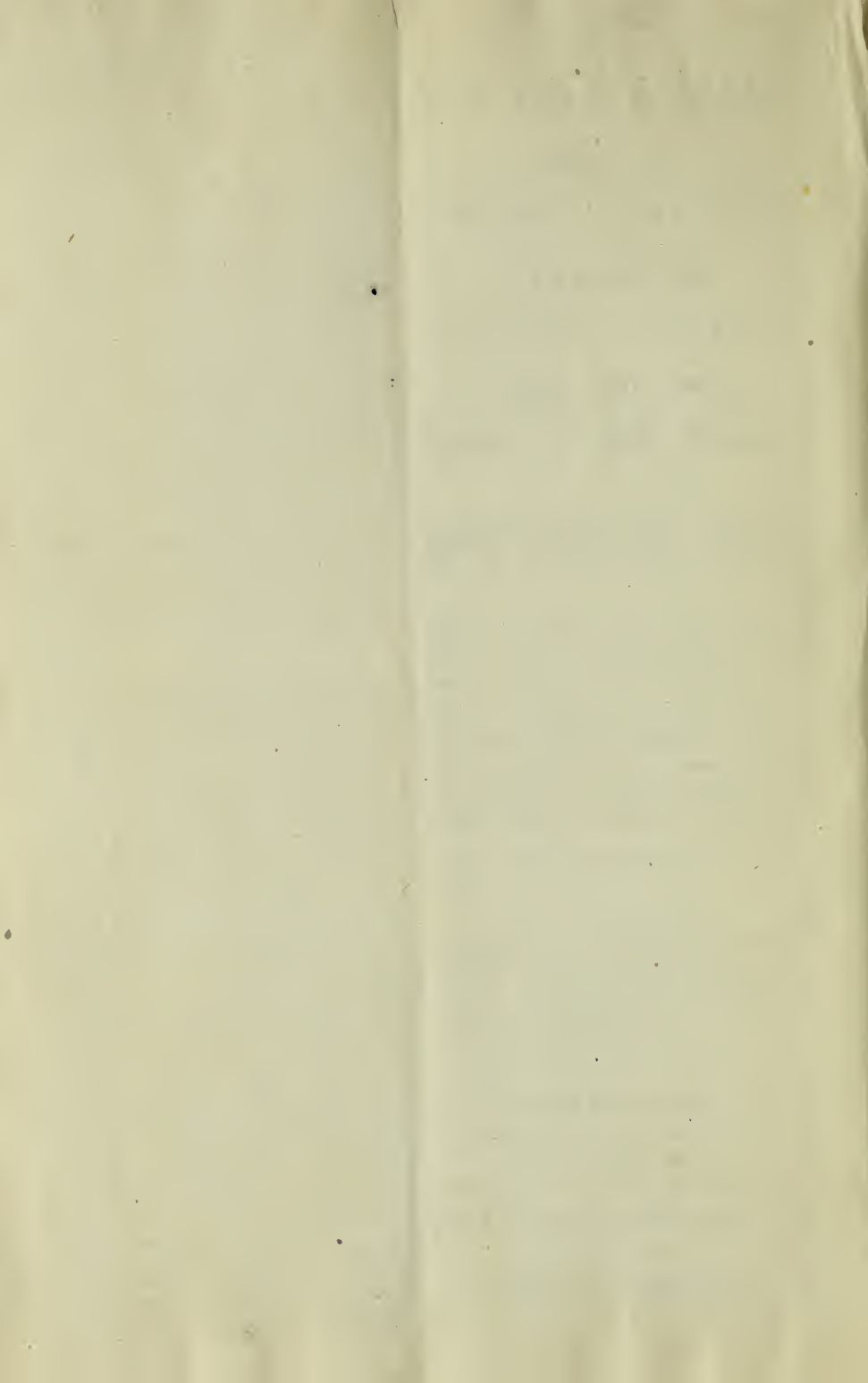
Of the attorneys upon the list I find seven United States Senators: Edward A. Hannegan, John Pettit, Albert S. White, Joseph A. Wright, Daniel D. Pratt, Joseph E. McDonald and Henry S. Lane.

I find also four Governors of the State: David Wallace, James Whitcomb, Joseph A. Wright and Henry S. Lane.

Also eleven members of Congress: Tighlman A. Howard, John Law, Edward A. Hannegan, Albert S. White, David Wallace, Henry S. Lane, Daniel Mace, Joseph E. McDonald, James Wilson, Thomas J. Cason and Daniel W. Voorhees.

Also five Ministers to foreign countries: Joseph A. Wright, James Wilson, Tighlman A. Howard, Edward A. Hannegan and Thomas O. Osborn.

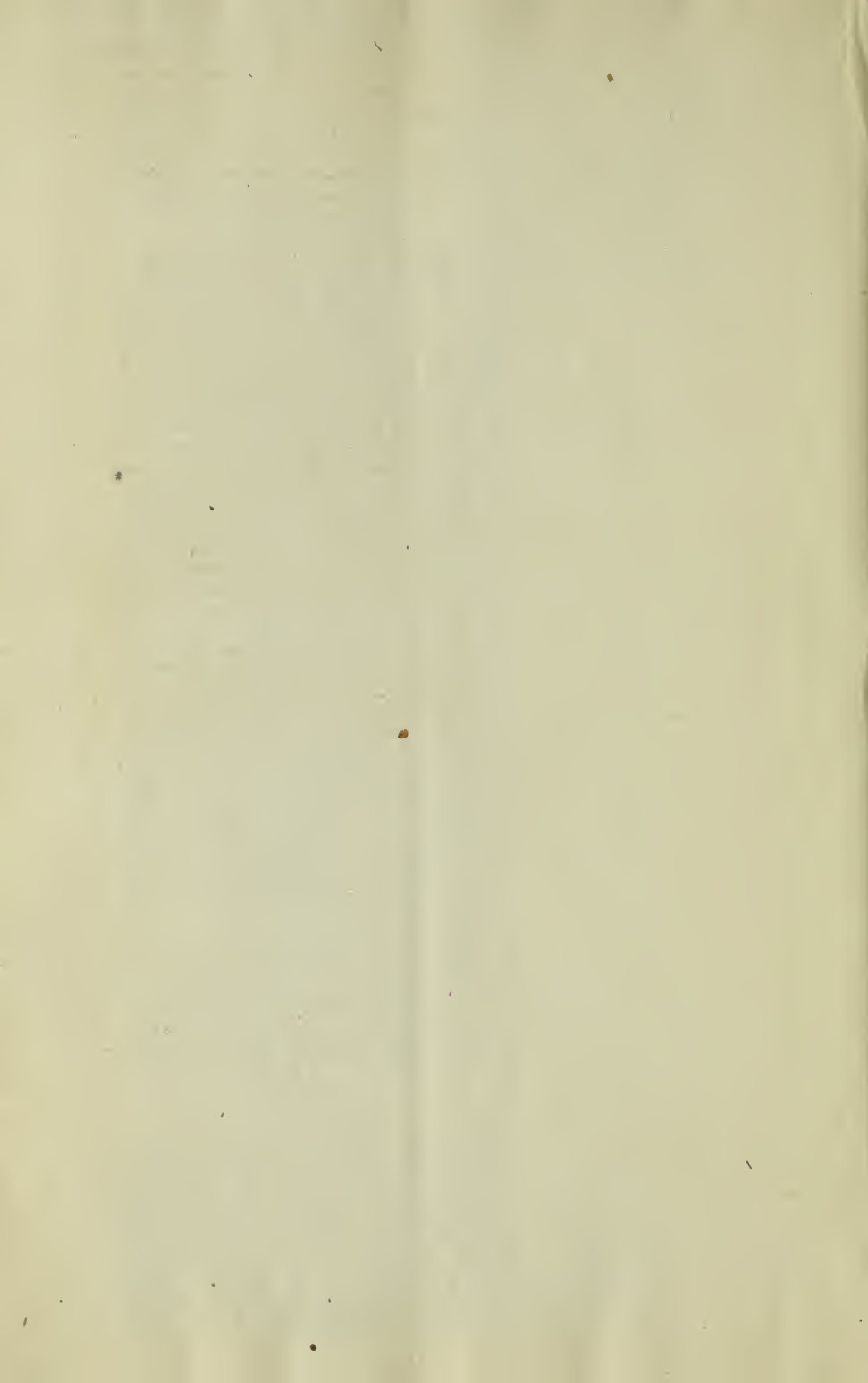
You will observe the offices mentioned are not in the line of the law. And I make the point, not to claim for the bar a monopoly of the intelligence, ability and virtue of the country; such boasting would be as unworthy as the jealousy to which I have alluded. No. I wish merely to vindicate the profession;



to point this question—Of the lawyers who have filled the honorable places named, what one of them has failed his trust or betrayed his constituency? An answer to the question is all I seek.

If I were sure your patience would hold out a little longer, it would give me pleasure to speak of the leaders who appear on the list; for, as in all departments, there were leaders amongst them; a result of the great law which lifts the tasseled heads of some stalks in the corn field higher than others, making the very highest also a very few. Such was Rufus A. Lockwood, a man with will to divide amongst a dozen kings, and mentally strong enough to have carried the public cares of a continent. Such was Tighlman A. Howard, gentle of heart, fervid in speech, clear minded, and looking always, except when in the flow of argument, as if the shadow of his untimely end was upon his spirit. Such was Albert S. White, not gifted with eloquence, but with a faculty of incisive statement which would have made him peerless in the days of higher culture now coming. Such was Edward A. Hannegan, who with the singing soul of Byron, had all the passion of Chatham. Such was Henry S. Lane, who, in defiance of every law of delivery, swept the whole range of oratory, and always left the jury doubting whether he excelled most in pathos, sarcasm, wit, repartee, logic or rhetoric. Such was Samuel C. Willson, whose cross examination was the standing terror of witnesses. Such was James Wilson, who, though his career was hardly begun, commanded audiences like a master. Others there were famous in specialties; but enough have been named to make it clear that the people must come to the bar if they would find their celebrities and truest representatives.

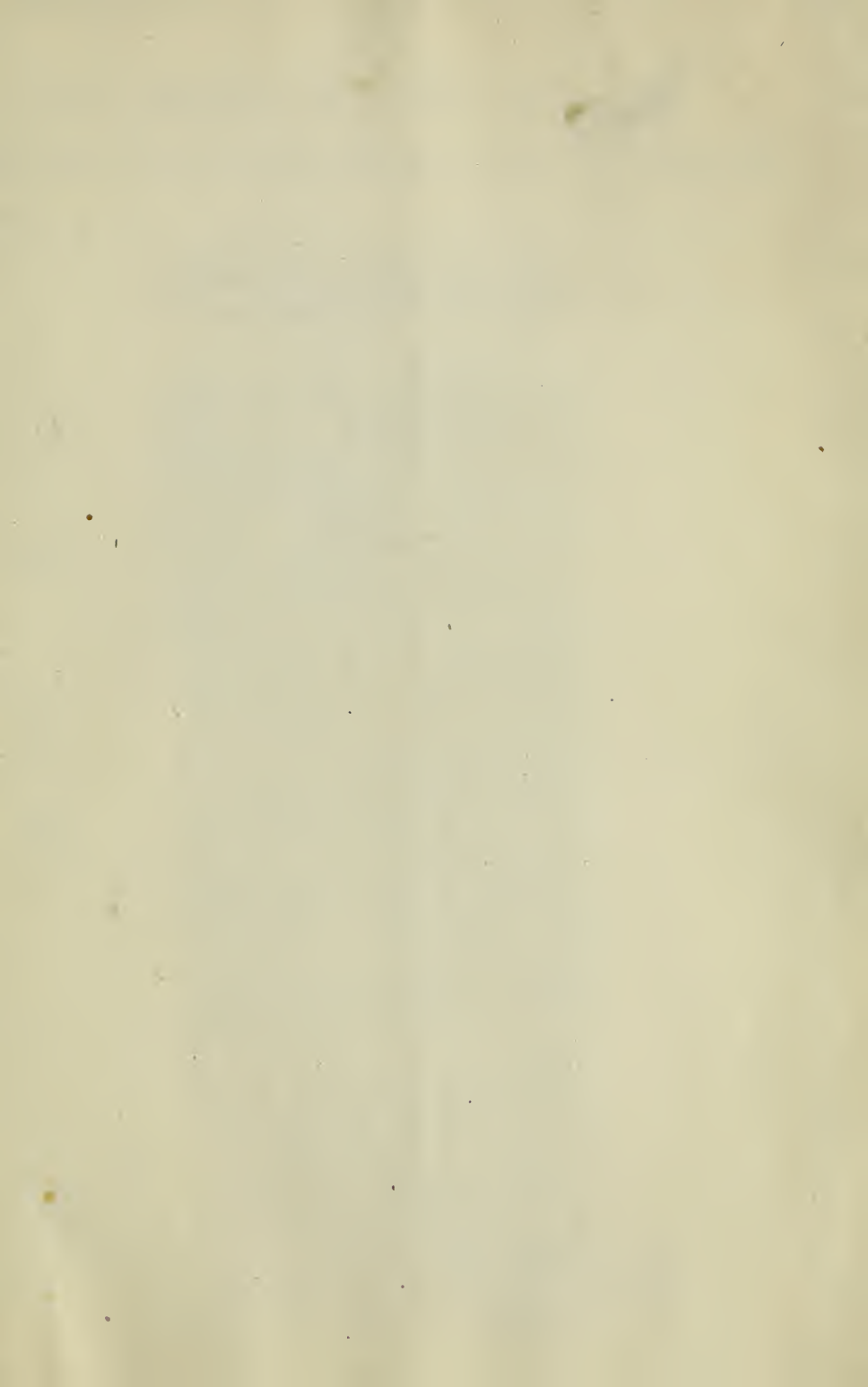
In conclusion, my friends, there will be lawyers as long as there are open courts in which men have a right to be heard. Among them, be assured, we must look for our Judges, upon whom rests our whole political system. Other departments may go at odd ends and corruption taint them to rottenness; yet hope will remain if the courts keep the respect and confidence of the people. Then why break down the profession, or lower its standard of honor and learning? When our country has lived the years of England, it will find out many things yet unknown to us; among others that *A correct administration of the law is the secret of National life*; and if the matter were referred to me, that motto I would write over the Judges' bench when this beautiful house is finished.



The address was hardly commenced when the rain began to fall, causing an amusing scampering of people in every direction in search of shelter, and necessitating an adjournment to McClelland Hall, where Gen. Wallace finished his speech to a large audience.

Everything passed off in good style, and the day will long be remembered as one of great interest. It is no exaggeration to say there were about 6,000 people about the Court House square when the corner stone was laid. Along the line of march the congratulations of citizens upon the order and fine appearance of the procession reflect credit upon the Grand Marshal of the day, Gen. M. D. Manson, and his aids, Capt. John W. Ramsey, Capt. A. J. McClelland, W. H. Ryker and T. J. Dolan. The procession was about 30 minutes in passing a given point, and was made up of about 1,000 men.

The ceremonies of the corner stone laying proper were conducted by Grand Master Foote, assisted by the other members of Grand Lodge, who were all present or represented.



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Scraps of Montgomery, Co. His-
tory

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ing, "Come all that dwell below the SKIES,
after which prayer was offered by Rev.
S. B. King. Owing to the great number
of persons present who could give an in-
teresting account of their early life in
this section, speeches were limited to ten
minutes. Speeches were made by P. T.
McKinney, Wm. Burch, Thos. Burch,
James McClure and several other old
pioneers who gave interesting reminiscen-
ces of the early settlement of Fountain,
Tippecanoe and Montgomery counties.
Fielding Smith was the proud proprietor
of the first girl baby born in the county
in 1822, and Wm. Burch the first boy
baby in the same year. Wm. Cravens
was the first Methodist preacher in the
county, James Thomson the first Presby-
terian and George Johnson the first Bap-
tist. James McChire, a settler of 1826,
gave an interesting account of the elec-
tions in early times. When the partisans
got excited, which was not unfrequent,
it was the custom, justices of the peace
and lawyers being scarce, for the dis-
putants to strip off their shirts, and fight
it out on that line. On one occasion a
battle was raging, and the Sheriff, after
ineffectual efforts to quell the row, upset
a stand of bees among the bare bodied
combatants. The effect was marked, and
the fighting politicians were soon hauling
on their shirts for safety from the active
little aids the Sheriff had summoned.

John Course built the first mill in the
county, in 1823-4. Noah Insley settled
in 1826. Jose Hixon, in 1827, and after-
ward moved to Montgomery county. He
was a soldier of the war of 1812, and had
the bad fortune to be made prisoner at
Hull's surrender. He was the only sol-
dier of 1812 present at the meeting.
Thos. Meharry was a settler of 1827, on
the beautiful prairie where he and his
numerous relatives reside to-day. There
was a prejudice then against prairies and
he was told that he would not live there
but a year or two, but he's there yet.
Corn was then worth from 6 to 12 cents
per bushel; wheat from 20 to 30 cents;
salt \$8@10 per barrel. Hugh Meharry
established the first saw mill, and some
witness in the audience testified that
Meharry brought it from Ohio on horse-
back! He did bring the saws that way,
however. Chas. Todd, who taught school
in the first school house in the county,
was present. William Waldrip was
eleven years old when he settled here,
and remembers well that he raised water-
melons so large that he could not load
one in a wagon. The Indians were then
plentiful here, and some of their strange
customs are still fresh in his memory.

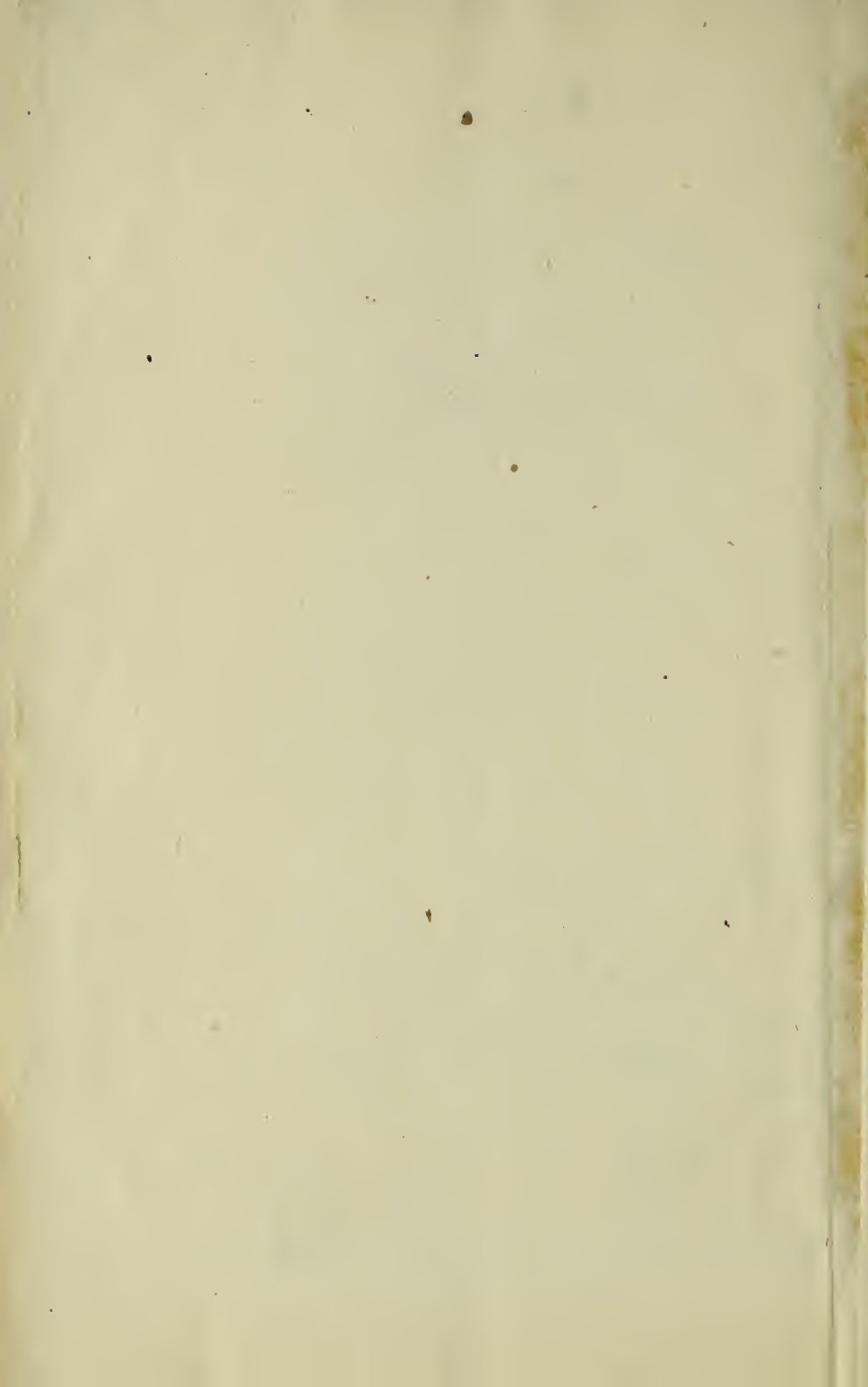
This meeting was the first of an Old
Settlers' organization, of the district of
Fountain Warren, Montgomery and Tip-

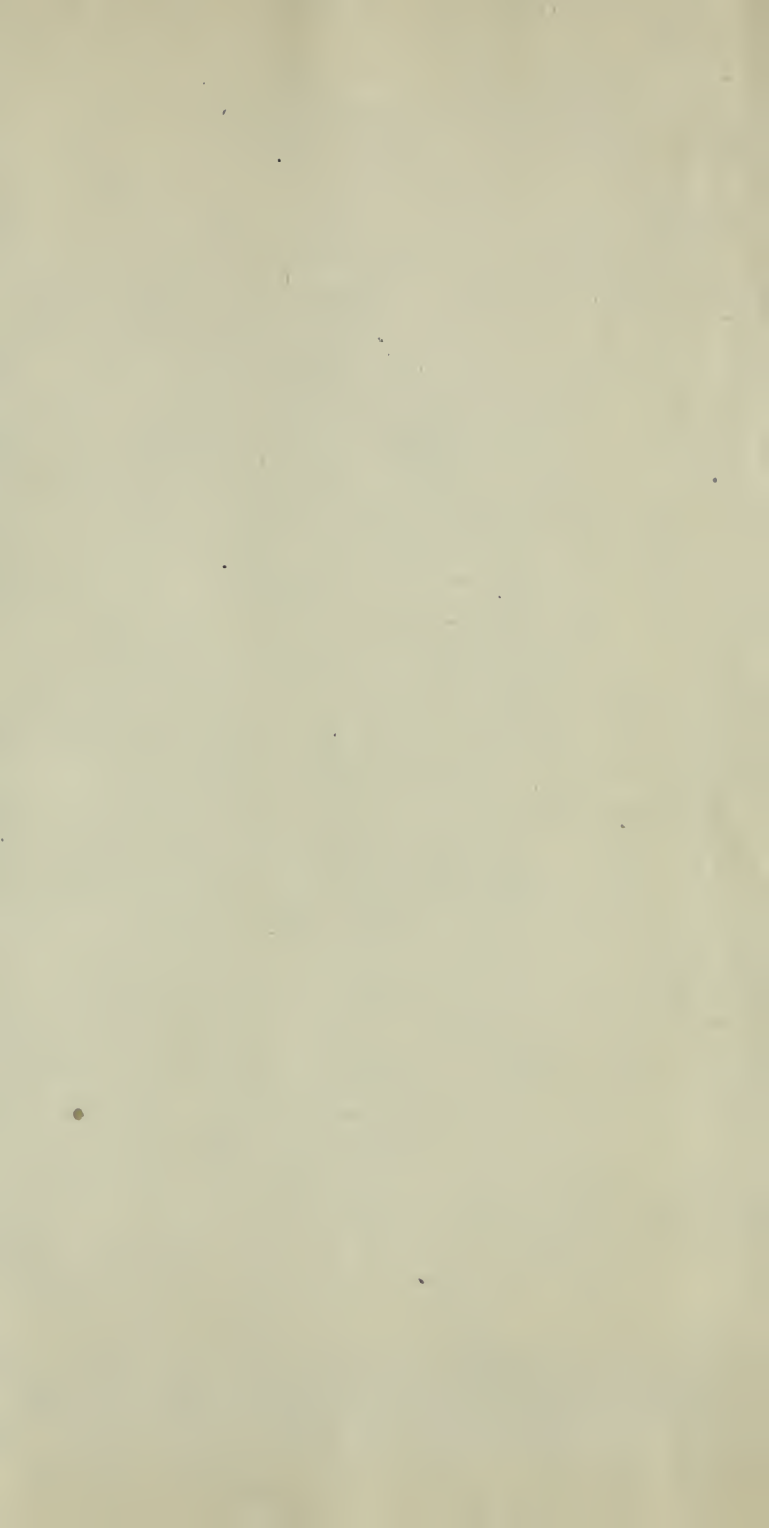
McKinney's

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No. 5 returned to file

